

Celebrating five years of CK Welcome Week: Building Community Culture & Connections

September 12-21, 2025

Chatham-Kent Welcome Week

Purpose: To connect newcomers to services in Chatham-Kent, to celebrate their contributions to the community through storytelling, and to promote diversity in our community. This week acts as a celebration, while efforts to support and welcome new residents to Chatham-Kent continue throughout the year.

Media Coverage:

CK Welcome Week was covered by local and regional media, including 1 article from CTV news, 1 article in the Windsor Star, 2 articles in the Sydenham Current, 1 article in the Chatham Voice, 1 article and 1 photoset from the Chatham Daily News, and 1 CKXS FM article.

Overview:

- 26 events took place during CK Welcome Week 2025
- Partnered with 36 organizations
- 3,200+ CK residents attended events
- Welcome Week campaign had a 1,244% increase in Facebook views
- Facebook views up 62%, and interactions up 47% during CK Welcome Week

Social Belonging

45+ Attendees



CK Welcome Week 2025 Flag Raising Ceremony

Welcome Week 2025 kicked off with a flag-raising ceremony at the Municipal Civic Centre.

ASL Storytime at the CKPL Wallaceburg

A special sign language storytime where stories and activities were presented in both English and American Sign Language.

12

Attendees

Franco-Fun with CCEY EarlyON/On y va

Franco-Ontarian Day was celebrated with live music and lots of fun activities for the whole family.

140

Attendees

Chatham-Kent International Food Festival

This first annual event included food and music from around the world, showcasing the diversity of Chatham-Kent.

10

Vendors

4

Musical Acts

✉ cklip@chatham-kent.ca

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CK Welcomes: A Community Showcase

This was a welcoming space for newcomers, international students, and residents to enjoy cultural performances, connect with local organizations, and discover new ways to get involved in the community.

250+
Attendees



Opening remarks from Chief Leela Thomas of the Bkejwanong Walpole Island First Nation. Welcoming Message from Councillor Anthony Ceccacci. Performances from 6 community groups on the Mainstreet Credit Union Stage; showcasing practices, cultural dance, and music.



Community Insights & Reflections

“ We had a great time and thought the cultural performances were beautiful! Thank you again for allowing us to be part of this special event!
- Joel Emery,
Alzheimer Society
of Chatham-Kent ”

“ Thank you so much to you and your team for creating such a fun and meaningful way to connect with others in our community. It was a great opportunity to hear about life stories from people who are newcomers, their journey, how life is different but the same in each of our countries!
- Melanie Watson,
Chatham-Kent Hospice ”

“ We enjoyed the multicultural activities from different cultures and backgrounds.
- Bidhi Singh
Bains, Sikh
Cultural Society
Chatham-Kent ”

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Community Events

Thamesville
Crossroads
Car Show

CKPL Events: Drop ins, welcoming
story times, Messy Thursdays,
Mahjong Club, & many others

Free Screening
of "If" at the
Capitol Theatre



Employment

CK Jobs Open House

Explored the full range of free employment services available in Chatham-Kent. This event offered hands-on support and expert guidance. Learned about resume development, interview preparation, job placement programs, training opportunities, and more.

Anti-Racism & Anti-Oppression 101

A beginner-friendly and engaging virtual workshop that explored the key concepts of anti-oppression and anti-racism. Facilitated by the Canadian Council of Muslim Women through their DARE project, this session helped attendees to:

- Understand oppression, racism, privilege and discrimination
- Recognize how oppression shows up personally and systematically
- Take action to build more inclusive workplaces and services

Community Supports & Information

Your Voice in Chatham-Kent:

Get involved in Municipal Government

This session informed newcomer residents of Chatham-Kent how they can participate in local decision-making, regardless of their immigration status.

27 Attendees



CK Crime Stoppers Children's Safety Expo

The Children's Safety Expo included valuable tips, insights and resources on how to keep children safe. The event included interactive and hands-on activities that were engaging and empowering.



Author Talk with Gabriel Allahdua:

Harvesting Freedom – The Life of a Migrant Worker in Canada

Gabriel spoke on themes from his memoir regarding the hidden cost of Canada's food system.



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Five Years of CK Welcome Week in Review

Over **8,000**
Participants

73
Events Hosted

100+
Community Partners

50,000
Reached Online



2021

Celebrating Cultural Cuisine in Chatham-Kent (657 People Reached)

As part of promoting cultural cuisine in Chatham-Kent, the Children's Treatment Centre of Chatham-Kent participated by displaying pictures of the recipes in their front lobby.



2021

Hate Has No Home Here Signs (27 Signs)

CK LIP Council Members, the LKDSB, purchased 27 signs and placed them in front of their schools. This was promoted on their social media pages, while also sharing LKDSB's strategic priority of Inclusive Diversity in the community.



2022

Community Conversation about Racism & Discrimination (35 Attendees)

6 panelists answered questions around racism and discrimination in the community, within systems, and throughout history. They discussed their own lived experiences of racism and discrimination, and the work they do to address it.



2022

Global Food Trail Challenge (45 Restaurants | 888 Attendees)

The Global Food Trail Challenge was completed in partnership with CK LIP and MCK Community Attraction & Promotion. This challenge promoted culturally diverse cuisine in Chatham-Kent.



2023

So You Want to Start a Non-Profit? (30 Attendees)

CK LIP and the United Way of Chatham-Kent hosted The Ontario Non-Profit Corporations Act 101 capacity-building session, delivered by Community Legal Education Ontario (CLEO). The session was presented to local non-profits and cultural community associations.



2021-2023

CK Welcome Week Videos and Living CK Stories

(10 languages showcased | 29 resident & newcomer stories | 32,000+ reached)

From 2021 to 2023, three Welcome week videos shared stories from residents about why they love living in Chatham-Kent, highlighting friendliness, diversity and community spirit.



2021-2023

International Student Welcome Event (135 Students | 23+ Countries)

MCK Community Attraction & Promotion and LKDSB hosted the International Student Welcome Event for three consecutive years. The successful event evolved into CK Welcomes: A Community Showcase, opening attendance to all immigrants, newcomers, and community members.



2024

Citizenship Ceremony in Chatham-Kent (48 New Canadians | 150 Participants)

Canadians from 18 countries took the citizenship oath together at the Capitol Theatre. Remarks by Allen Deleary, Chief Administrator, Caldwell First Nation. Welcome message from Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau.

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